

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fact Sheet
John Day Vapor Response
Friday, May 22, 2015

An EPA Emergency Response Team arrived in John Day on Thursday, May 21, at the request of the city and the state of Oregon to help investigate the unusual odors in and around homes and commercial buildings along South Canyon Boulevard.

Over the next several days we will be going door to door in this five to ten block area to take air samples and find out where the vapors are concentrated, how much is present and what kind of chemicals are present. EPA's work builds on some limited sampling conducted by the City of John Day earlier this month.

The first priority is to identify all the locations that are affected make sure that people living or working in affected buildings minimize their exposure to any fumes.

Report Odors or Fumes

If you smell an unusual odor in your house please call John Day Dispatch at 541-575-0030. The information will be shared with EPA.

Be Safe

Ventilation is important, open your windows and contact your insurance agent.

Health Concerns

If you smell chemical odors and experience any symptoms such as headache, burning eyes, shortness of breath, call your doctor.

Other contacts include: Grant County Health Department 541-575-0429 Oregon Public Health **need phone**

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do these fumes cause a risk of fire or explosion?

No. The vapors found at this time are not flammable or explosive.

Should I avoid going to the affected area?

Outdoor spaces are not a problem. Vapors are only a concern in enclosed spaces that are not adequately ventilated.

How do I ventilate my home?

Keep windows open, open or unblock crawl space vents, use fans that vent to the outside.

What types of contaminants have been found?

*We will have more information on this soon **(how soon?)** A preliminary sampling report is available on the City of John Day website: <http://www.cityofjohnday.com/>*

How can I find out more about the health effects of vapors?

ATSDR toxfaqs other sources

Where are the vapors coming from?

We do not currently know the source of the vapors. The sampling we are conducting will provide information to help us identify the source and determine what next steps might need to be taken to address the source.

Who is involved with the response to the vapors?

EPA has On-Scene Coordinators and support contractors in John Day to monitor indoor air in the affected neighborhood. EPA is also coordinating with the City of John Day and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Other questions?

For more information:

Judy Smith, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator 503-545-2540 smith.judy@epa.gov

On the web: www.epaosc.net/johnday